

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Heller of Nevada moves to recommit the bill to the Committee on Small Business with instructions to report the bill back to the House promptly in the form to which it may be perfected at the time of this motion with the following amendment:

Page 14, line 3, strike "and alternative fuels" and insert "alternative fuels, and projects that have the potential to lower gasoline and diesel prices".

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I reserve a point of order against the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman reserves a point of order against the motion.

The gentleman from Nevada is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HELLER of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the concerns American workers and small businesses have with fuel prices. The majority party in Congress has offered the American people no real solutions to lower fuel costs. Speaker PELOSI said, "Democrats have a comprehensive plan to help bring down skyrocketing gas prices," and the American people want to know, where is that plan?

Gas prices have risen 50 percent since Democrats took control. Was it the comprehensive energy bill passed last December?

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the House is not in order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may proceed.

#### PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from Nevada yield for that purpose?

Mr. HELLER of Nevada. I would yield.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Is it the role of the Speaker to make certain that the House is in order prior to Members speaking so that the gentleman can be heard? Isn't that appropriate?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It is the role of the Chair to determine whether or not there is order in the House and to allow the gentleman to proceed with his comments.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the House is not in order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may proceed.

Mr. HELLER of Nevada. Gas prices have risen 50 percent—

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the House is not in order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's colleagues will help bring the House to order. Please take your comments off the floor of the House so the gentleman from Nevada may be heard.

The gentleman may proceed.

Mr. HELLER of Nevada. Gas prices have risen 50 percent—

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the House is not in order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

The gentleman may proceed.

Mr. HELLER of Nevada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Gas prices have risen 50 percent since Democrats took control. Was it the comprehensive energy bill passed last December? Gas prices have risen 7.6 percent and diesel has risen 16 percent since December's highly touted energy bill passed.

Earlier today, I heard on this floor one member of the majority blame others for the increases of the last 16 months. We would hate to take responsibility around here, wouldn't we? To make matters worse, Democrats are actually rallying behind a plan to increase the gas tax by 50 cents per gallon.

Mr. Speaker, in my home State of Nevada, gasoline is already on average \$3.60 a gallon. This is well over \$1 per gallon over what it was when the current majority party took control of Congress.

In the course of holding a number of town hall meetings over the last 16 months, I have spoken to small business owners and more than 100,000 households across my district. During these town hall meetings, I have asked the question, do you support the proposed 50 cent per gallon gasoline tax? Roughly 82 percent of Nevadans asked about this proposal oppose this tax increase. If passed, this gas tax would be devastating for each of the 204,000 small businesses in my home State.

High gasoline and diesel prices are affecting everything and have contributed in part to the rising costs of food and commodities. Increased food prices this year have resulted in a financial burden for many, including small businesses, seniors on Social Security or fixed incomes, and other low-income families. Prices for beef, bakery products and eggs are up sharply.

Several factors have affected food prices, Mr. Speaker, but the most damaging are the gasoline and diesel prices for the operation of equipment and transportation of food to the market.

Our solution to this problem is economics, supply and demand. We need to increase supply, and to that end exploration and production must be increased, including domestically. Refineries need to be built and energy sources expanded, including alternative fuel technology.

Mr. Speaker, in this light I offer my motion to recommit, which will help research ways to lower the price of fuel for Americans and small businesses. This motion simply states that the energy-related research topics in this bill should also include projects that have potential to lower gas and diesel costs.

It is critical that Congress act on this issue of high fuel prices now, not only to help American workers have a better way of life, but to help our struggling small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, on that note, I yield back.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentlewoman from New York continue to reserve her point of order?

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the motion be amended to report back to the House forthwith.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from Nevada yield for that request?

Mr. HELLER of Nevada. Yes, I do.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I appreciate the offer of the gentleman, although I would suggest that if the unanimous consent request would also include the bill that has been included by Mr. FOSSELLA in the Senate-passed FISA bill that we have, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act that we have under a discharge petition, then I believe our side would be pleased to accept the unanimous consent.

Mr. HOYER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I would be happy to.

Mr. HOYER. I am only going to play the game just so far.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. We would be happy to accept the unanimous consent request if the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act will be allowed to come to the floor.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman object?

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation on the point of order, and I rise in opposition to the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, the motion we are considering today will do nothing to lower gas prices. But what this bill does is it will provide for small businesses to afford the resources that would allow for them to bring prices down by promoting new technologies.

My question to the author of the motion to recommit is, where is your outrage when the President refuses to implement H.R. 6, which would allow for small businesses to lower gas prices?

When the Republicans had a chance to vote on price gouging, you voted "no." When you had a chance to have America invest in alternative energy, you voted "no." When you had a chance to invest in conservation, you voted "no." This is the height of hypocrisy. This motion does nothing to lower gas prices in the country.

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In the country, it will kill the bill that we allow for small businesses in this country to have the tools and resources to deal with the issue of energy conservation and gas prices in this Nation.

Vote "no" on this motion to recommit.